



# Chamizal National Memorial

Teacher E-Newsletter

Fall 2006



## Teacher-Ranger-Teacher

Blanche Herrera, this year's TRT from Putnam Elementary, developed 2nd & 4th grade lesson plans centered on the Memorial. You can find the TEKS based lessons at [www.nps.gov/cham](http://www.nps.gov/cham). She also developed a plant walk for the park!



## On-Site Visits

Bring your students in for a hands-on visit to the Memorial. Each visit includes a ranger talk and an activity to help reinforce themes related to the park. Call early to schedule and plan your visit! (915) 532-7273 ext.130.



## Special Projects

The Memorial collaborates with motivated area teachers to give their students a more in-depth learning experience. These programs are planned at least a year in advance and are directly related to the park's mission.

Chamizal National Memorial is one of 390 sites within the National Park Service. Other sites include White Sands National Monument, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Padre Island National Seashore, Lincoln Memorial, Grand Canyon National Park, and the Statue of Liberty. National Park sites exist to protect the nation's most treasured places for all its citizens and visitors so that future generations can experience and learn from the country's extensive and varied cultural, historical and natural resources.

## Commitment to Education

The Memorial is focused on providing the El Paso/Ciudad

Juarez border community with quality education programs that promote cultural understanding and foster continual friendships. As such, the park works in collaboration with area government organizations and local groups to produce programs and events that support the park's mission.

In the coming school year, the Memorial will host performances by the Outrageous Fortune Theatre Company so area school children can participate in a live performance of some of William Shakespeare's plays. In addition, Siglo de Oro (mid-16<sup>th</sup> through mid-17<sup>th</sup> centuries) will be held in early spring to bring to life works from Spain's Golden Age of literature.

Finally, late in the school year, the Santa Fe Opera will present several days of performances for area elementary school children. Throughout the year, the Memorial plans additional programs for a wide variety of audiences. Please visit our web site for a complete schedule of these upcoming programs.

## A New Web Site

On August 25, the National Park Service will launch a new web site. Noticeable changes to our park's site include the addition of downloaded material. Lesson plans, photo galleries and video clips concerning the history of the Chamizal will be available as well as a schedule of upcoming events.

# Why We're Here...

Chamizal National Memorial was established to commemorate the Chamizal Convention (treaty) of 1963. U.S. President John F. Kennedy and Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos met to discuss the "*Chamizal Issue*", which had been a sore point between the two nations for over 100 years. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo established the Rio Grande River as the boundary line between a more than 1,000-mile stretch of the U. S. and Mexico border. One problematic area of this boundary was between the two densely populated communities of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. As time went on, the river gradually, and sometimes suddenly, shifted its course between the two cities leaving families with parts of their property on the other side of the river. As questions of ownership arose, animosity between neighbors grew as well.

During the height of the Cold War, President Kennedy felt it was important to finally settle the dispute in order to strengthen ties with Mexico. Unfortunately, Kennedy did not live to see the agreement finalized. It was U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mexican President Lopez Mateos who ultimately witnessed the settlement of the Chamizal dispute. As agreed upon in the treaty, both countries shared the cost of

cementing the river bed and building ports of entry within the major populated areas of both cities. Each nation also acquired a portion of Mexico's Cordova Island. In addition, the U.S. ceded the Chamizal Tract, 437 acres of South El Paso that had originally belonged to Mexico after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

While the Chamizal treaty was celebrated as a huge success of political diplomacy, many people were upset by its terms. Over 5,000

U.S. citizens were removed from their homes and business so the land could be given back to Mexico. In addition, Mexican business and home owners had to relinquish their claims on Cordova Island. While many individuals were personally affected by the terms of the agreement, the citizens of both countries benefited from peacefully settling the 100-year dispute. On Cordova Island, Mexico established the Parque Chamizal, built several

government buildings, schools and established an archeological museum. The U.S. constructed a highway running alongside the border, a high school, and established Chamizal National Memorial to serve as a symbol of what can be accomplished when two entities come together to discuss their differences and peacefully settle a dispute.



U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos unveil the new boundary marker signally the peaceful end of the *Chamizal Issue*.

Today, Chamizal National Memorial serves as a cultural center where people from all backgrounds can experience the shared wealth of diverse cultural groups living within the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez borderland community. Through the use of the visual and performing arts, and education programs, the Memorial promotes cultural awareness, and preserves the sentiments behind the treaty that made the peaceful resolution a reality.



# A Message from the Superintendent



Welcome to Chamizal National Memorial. We are proud to be a part of the borderland community but also realize our responsibilities to serve the needs of the entire national population as one of 390 sites in the National Park Service system.

The Interpretation and Education Division at Chamizal National Memorial has worked hard over the summer to develop key on-site programs that educate visitors about the park's history and its significance on a national and international level. In addition, we have revamped our website to provide a quality experience for those visitors who are unable to visit, or are considering a visit to our 55-acre park. By providing these programs, we are confident that current and future generations will better understand, appreciate, and support the role of national parks and our mission of preservation – preservation of not only natural and cultural resources, but equally important, our shared history and cultural legacy as well.

*Richard L. Harris*  
Superintendent

## Shakespeare at the Memorial



Chamizal National Memorial and the Outrageous Fortune Theatre Company (OFTC) are working together to bring area 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to the Memorial's

theater this fall. OFTC's Outreach Company will present a fun (and slightly silly) adaptation of selected Shakespearean plays entitled *'Tis Shakespearish* written by Dr. Joel Murray, professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Texas at El Paso. This short play is a compilation of various characters and scenes from well-known Shakespeare plays such as Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, Hamlet, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. This presentation does require some selected audience participation!

Each performance is 45 minutes in length and reservations are on a first call/first serve basis. ***Please call early to reserve your seats as seating is limited.*** Morning performances are scheduled to begin at 10:00 am. Afternoon performances begin at 1:00 pm.

Performances will not be held longer than five minutes for late comers. Please plan to arrive at the Memorial at least 20 to 25 minutes prior to scheduled performance times.

### Morning Performances

10:00 AM

October 25<sup>th</sup>

November 1<sup>st</sup>

December 13<sup>th</sup>

### Afternoon Performances

1:00 PM

October 11<sup>th</sup>

October 18<sup>th</sup>

December 6<sup>th</sup>

**Bus Funding Scholarships are available!**  
(915) 532-7273

# CALENDER

## Student & Teacher Events

October 11<sup>th</sup>

**'Tis Shakespearish**  
*Outrageous Fortune Theatre*  
Company 1:00- 1:45 pm

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**'Tis Shakespearish**  
*Outrageous Fortune Theatre*  
Company 1:00- 1:45 pm

October 21<sup>st</sup>

**Teacher Workshop: Chamizal as a Science Resource**  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm *sponsored in conjunction with EPISD*

October 25<sup>th</sup>

**'Tis Shakespearish**  
*Outrageous Fortune Theatre*  
Company 10:00- 10:45 am

November 1<sup>st</sup>

**'Tis Shakespearish**  
*Outrageous Fortune Theatre*  
Company 10:00- 10:45 am

December 6<sup>th</sup>

**'Tis Shakespearish**  
*Outrageous Fortune Theatre*  
Company 1:00- 1:45 pm

December 13<sup>th</sup>

**'Tis Shakespearish**  
*Outrageous Fortune Theatre*  
Company 10:00- 10:45 am

## Public Events

August 24-26

**Shakespeare in the Park** 7:30  
nightly on the Outdoor Stage

September 20<sup>th</sup>

**Armchair Explorer Series** 10:30  
am - 11:45 am  
*Rocky Mountain National Park*

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**Armchair Explorer Series** 10:30  
am - 11:45 am  
*Mammoth Cave National Park*

November 4<sup>th</sup>

**Native American**

## Heritage Celebration

10:00 am - 3:00pm

November 15<sup>th</sup>

**Armchair Explorer Series** 10:30 am - 11:45 am  
*Virginia's Civil War Parks*

December 20<sup>th</sup>

**Armchair Explorer Series**  
10:30 am - 11:45 am  
*Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks*

## In the Gallery

Through Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>

**Body/Mind: Connect**  
Amy M. Lam Wai Man

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> - Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

**Catrinas** Organized by the  
Mexican Consulate in  
El Paso, Texas

Teachers receive a 20% discount in the Memorial's Bookshop **everyday!**

## Memorial vs. Monument?



There are 14 major designations for an NPS site, including National Park, National Historic Site and National Preserve. The Chamizal is a Memorial, which is commemorative of a specific, historic episode - in this case, the Chamizal Convention of 1963. The land reserved for the Memorial does not necessarily have to be directly connected to the actual event. The disputed Chamizal Tract is located in what was south Downtown El Paso. The Memorial now sits on land that was part of Cordova Island. A National Monument is established by the President, who is authorized under The Antiquities Act of 1906 to preserve landmarks,

structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest on already publicly owned or controlled lands. For more information on park designations, please visit [www.nps.gov/legacy/nomenclature.html](http://www.nps.gov/legacy/nomenclature.html).

**Did you know?** Out of the 390 sites across the nation, there are 31 different National Park sites and historical trails just in Texas and New Mexico alone! The only state in the country that does not have a National Park unit is Delaware.

## Chamizal National Memorial

800 S. San Marcial  
El Paso, Texas 79905  
(915) 532-7273  
[www.nps.gov/cham](http://www.nps.gov/cham)

The Memorial's Visitor Center and Los Paisanos Gallery are open daily from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Park Grounds are open daily from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Please note that groups of 50 or more people are required to apply for a special use permit or be subject to a \$200 fine. Education fee waivers are available.